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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC General Information on MVD Troops

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

17 April 1951

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REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In mid-February 1951, the troops in the boys' school in Annaberg (N 51/K 73) changed quarters with those in the AEG building in Grottendorf, with the result that the boys' school quartered troops with red-bordered black epaulets and the AEG building MVD troops with red-bordered green epaulets. A joint field exercise held by a unit of about 150 troops with red-bordered black epaulets from the boys' school and a unit of about 200 troops with red-bordered green epaulets from the Mehnert Factory was observed the afternoon of 21 February. About eight officers were with each unit. The troops practiced an attack against five stationary dummy tanks, advancing in groups of from six to eight men wearing gas masks. The field exercise also involved about 20 dogs which, at dusk, were sent off individually toward targets designated by flares. The dogs seemed to carry heavy objects, apparently reels, from [redacted] wire reeling off.

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2. All motor vehicles observed in the Annaberg area, driven by soldiers with red-bordered green epaulets [redacted] which were driven by soldiers who were red-bordered black epaulets. *

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3. No changes in the occupation of the Artillerie Kaserne on Leninstrasse, Chemnitz (N 51/K 66), were observed on 2 and 4 March. Five platoons, each of 30 to 35 soldiers wearing red-bordered green epaulets, were engaged in close order drill. Motor vehicle [redacted] driven by a soldier with red-bordered green epaulets entered the barracks installation.

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4. It was learned between 1 and 5 March that the so-called Rote Schloss (Red-Chateau) in Mhlä near Eisenach (L 51/ H 76) has been reconditioned since the fall of 1950, and, after quartering MVD troops, would be converted into a hospital for the troops at the Kindel troop training grounds.

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5. On 26 February, the Reil Kaserne in Halle (N 52/D 92) quartered about 400 troops who wore red-bordered green epaulets. Twelve trucks in a shed and 12 dogs in a kennel were seen in the barracks yard. Truck [redacted] was observed being refueled. **

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6. On 20 February, the Planitz Kaserne on Viertelsweg, Leipzig (N 52/E 21), quartered about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered green epaulets. The units had apparently left the installation for an exercise on that day, since only two officers and a few EM were seen in the billeting area. The officers' billets on Witzlebenstrasse were occupied as usual. Motor vehicles [redacted] moved toward the Planitz Kaserne. ***

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7. On 12 March, the Planitz Kaserne quartered about 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered green epaulets. Intensive training activity in the billeting area indicated the possibility that recruits arrived recently. Three hundred troops were engaged in close order drill while 200 were at firing practice. Motor vehicles [redacted] were observed. The barracks fence and the garages were floodlit at night by a newly installed system of arc lamps. ***

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* [redacted] Comment. [redacted] previously reported the AEG building in Crottendorf to have quartered troops with red-bordered green epaulets. [redacted] The occupation of the Mehnert Factory by troops with red-bordered green epaulets is confirmed.

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** [redacted] Comment. The information indicates no change since the last report. [redacted]

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*** [redacted] Comment. Reports received to date specified the number of troops in the Planitz Kaserne at between 1,000 and 1,200. The recruits mentioned in the present report probably arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany in February 1951, aboard the recent trains with replacements.

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